



THE

# KNIGHT



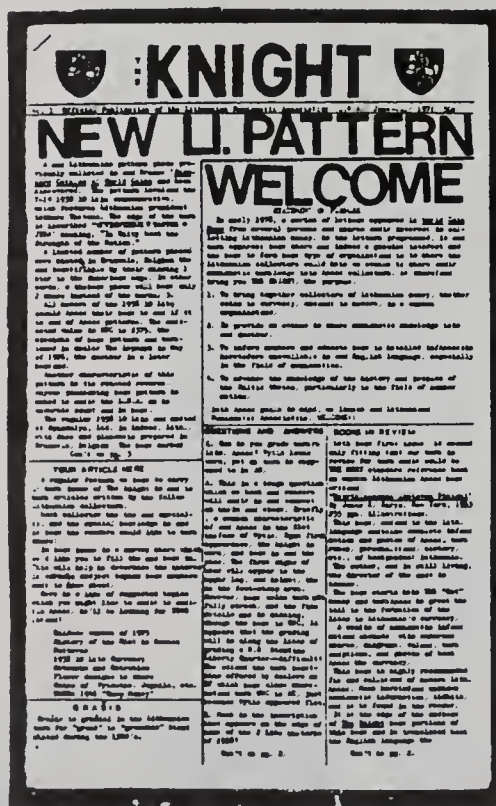
Volume 11, Nos. 1 & 2. Issues Nos. 61 & 62. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. Summer-Fall 1988

## A HISTORY OF THE LNA

By Frank Passic  
EDITOR, THE KNIGHT

How does one start a numismatic organization and keep it going for ten full years? This is the tenth anniversary of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, and for the benefit of our newer readers, and as a reminder for our charter members, this is the story about how the LNA was formed, and our accomplishments over the past ten years:

I had been a coin collector most of my life, and active in my local Albion, Michigan coin club. In September, 1977 at an ethnic



Above: FIRST ISSUE, June-July 1978. Remember?...

Continued on page 5...

## THE NATIONAL GUARD STAR MEDAL

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis

The Lithuanian Guardian Star Medal (Lietuvos Sauliu Zvaigzde Medalis) was issued in 1939 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Lithuanian National Guard (Sauliu Sajunga). The medal was designed by the noted Lithuanian



sculptor, Petras Rimša (pronounced RIM-sha), and was manufactured by the firm of Hugenin Brothers of LeLocle, Switzerland.

The design on the obverse features the National Guard shield with its double-barred cross with a crossed rifle and ancient trumpet behind. The shield is surrounded by an oak leaf wreath and at its top appears a miniature Guardian Star (Sauliu Zvaigzde). [See the last issue of *The Knight* for information on that decoration] Rimša's characteristic "Wise Owl" emblem is perched atop an open book at the base of the shield. The medal utilizes a green ribbon with a white stripe at each edge.

Continued next page...



## 2. NATIONAL GUARD STAR MEDAL

Continued from page 1...

The reverse of the medal bears the 1919-1939 anniversary dates, inside a ribbon above the inscription, **DIRBK IR BUDEK LIETUVOS GARBEI**, which translates, "Watch and Work for Lithuania's Glory." At the base of the reverse is Rimša's famous **Ploughman** sculpture, with Lithuanian roadside crosses in the background. The reverse, like the obverse, is surrounded by an honor wreath.

As was customary with all Lithuanian decorations, the Guardian Star Medal was awarded with an official certificate. The medal was originally awarded to all guardsmen in the service at the time and to all former members and individuals who had contributed to the Guard during the period 1919 to 1939. As such, the Guardian Star Medal was the last decoration of the Republic of Lithuania awarded enmasse.

The anniversary of the National Guard was August 9, 1919, which commemorates Vladas Putvinskis-Putvys' founding of the first squad of the Guard. By 1939, the National Guard had grown to include 42,000 officers and guardsmen, with 5,000 auxiliaries and 15,000 women members. As such, it is estimated that 100,000 such medals were manufactured and awarded. Unfortunately, the 20th anniversary of the National Guard was followed in 1940 by the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. The Soviets disbanded the National Guard, and prohibited the wearing of guard decorations.

The Sauliu Zvaigzde Medal is still awarded by the Lithuanian National Guard in exile, to honor recipients for five years of faithful membership and service to the Guard. Unlike the original decoration which was made in bronze, the current medal is made in an inexpensive pot metal and painted brown.

(Continued on page 4...)

**Photo on Right: General Pranas Saladzius (1893-1965), last Commander of the Lithuanian National Guard 1935-1939.**

**Medals he is wearing: Neck decoration 3rd class Commander Order of Gediminas, on the edge of his tunic, 3rd Class Fireman's Decoration.**

**On his breast: 4th class Order of Vytautas the Great, National Guard Guardian Star, 10 Year Commemoration Medal of Lithuanian independence, Boy Scout Supporters medal, Iron Wolf Award, 5th Class Fireman's award, Latvian Home Guards Order of Merit.**

**On his breast pocket: Graduate of the Russian Czarist Vilnius Infantry School badge.**



Postcard issued by the Lithuanian National Guard as a fund raiser. The Motto, "Lithuanian National Guard 1919-1929" and Vilnius Bus Musu, which translates, "Vilnius Will Be Ours."





## THE VYTAUTAS THE GREAT MEDAL

### Vytautas the Great Medal

Designer/Sculptor: Petras Rimša

Mint: Huguenin Freres & Co., Le Locle,  
Switzerland. Mintage: 17,000

Sizes: (original was 35 mm.) 25, 35, 60, 75,  
and 100 mm.

Metal: Bronze

The Vytautas the Great Medal of the famous Lithuanian sculptor Petras Rimša (1881-1961) is no doubt Lithuania's most significant, popular, and most produced medal in its history. Rimša's obverse design became the official emblem for the many celebrations held throughout Lithuania in 1930 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the renowned Lithuania patriarch, Vytautas the Great.

Lithuania's greatest patriarch, Vytautas the Great, reigned as Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1392 to 1430. Vytautas expanded Lithuanian territory and made it one of the leading European powers of his day. He led the Lithuanian army and allies to a spectacular victory over the Teutonic Knights at the epoch-making Battle of Tannenberg in 1410. This event stopped the advance of the Knights, assuring independence for Lithuania and other eastern European nations.

This medal has the largest mintage of all of Rimša's numerous medals, and of any other Lithuanian medal. During Rimša's 1936-37 tour of the United States, he presented a specimen of the Vytautas the Great medal to the American Numismatic Association.

**OBVERSE:** Shown is the image of Vytautas the Great. The legend reads, **VYTAUTAS DIDYSIS 1430-1930**, which translates, "Vytautas the Great 1430-1930." In the background is depicted the Battle of Tannenberg, similar to that which is found on the Polish artist Jan Matejko's famous rendition of the Battle of Grunwald (where Polish forces were located during the battle), painted in 1878. Rimša's signature is found at the bottom on top of Vytautas' right breast.

**REVERSE:** Featured is a map of Lithuania during the time of Vytautas the Great. During the 15th century, Lithuania stretched from the Baltic to the Black Seas, covering 350,000 square miles. Names of the cities are in Lithuanian. At the bottom appears the so-called "Vytautas emblem," a popular emblem in 1930, based upon ancient denars struck during Vytautas' reign. The legend reads, **VYTAUTO DIDŽIO LAIKU LIETUVA**, which translates, "Lithuania in the Time of Vytautas the Great."



This medal was manufactured in many sizes, and frequently can be found in the estates of Lithuanian old-timers, who cherished them dearly as a remembrance of their homeland and heritage. The small 25 mm. editions contain a loop at the top, through which can be placed a necklace or a wire/stringed device for easy wearing.

Over the past decade, we have seen a few of these medals offered on the numismatic market, where they are quickly snapped up by eager Lithuanian collectors.



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA

# ŠAULIŲ ŽVAIGŽDĖS M E D A L I S

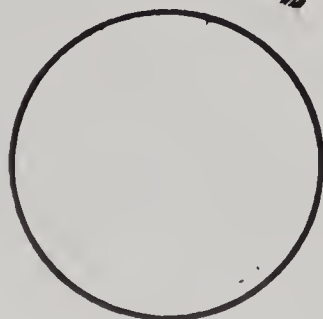
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTO VARDU UŽ  
NUOPELNUŠ ŠAULIŲ SAJUNGAI KRAŠTO AP-  
SAUGOS MINISTRO AKTU

*Aleksandras Račkus*

APDOVANOTAS

ŠAULIŲ ŽVAIGŽDĖS MEDALIU,

ISTEIGTU 1939 ŠAULIŲ SAJUNGOS DVIDEŠIMTMEČIO  
SUKAKTUVINIAIS METAIS



*Brig. gen. [Signature]*  
KARTUOMENĖS VADAS

*Plk. [Signature]*  
ŠAULIŲ SAJUNGOS VADAS

KAUNAS, 1939 M. birželio mėn. 24 d. 8367 NR



The translation of the National Guard Star Medal on the preceding page is as follows:

"Republic of Lithuania, National Guard Star Medal. By the act of the Minister of Defense and in the name of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, **Dr. Aleksandras Rackus** is AWARDED the National Guard Star Medal. Established in 1939 on the twentieth anniversary of the Founding of the National Guard.

Signed, Brig. General S. Rastikis, Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Signed, Colonel Saladzius, Chief of the National Guard Association.

Kaunas, 1939 June 24, No. 8367.



Above: 1935 photo of Dr. Aleksandras Rackus, who was awarded the National Guard Star Medal in 1939.

Continued from page 1...

festival in Jackson, Michigan. I noticed a Lithuanian booth, sponsored by Arunas & Virginia Udrys (Virginia's father is Al Ruzgas, a well known Lithuanian collector and LNA member who lives in New York). At their booth was a publication, **Bridges**, which gave fascinating information (in English) about Lithuania and Lithuanians.

I might add at this point that my Lithuanian heritage is on my mother's side. My grandparents, Nikodimas and Theodora (Barvidaite) Kulikauskas, came to America and settled in Chicago around 1911-12. They were both from Luoke, Lithuania, which is in the Samogitian region, south of Telsiai. They were married in January, 1913 at the Providence of God Church by the Rev. Krusas, a well known Lithuanian priest. In 1918 they moved to Albion, Michigan, where I am from (I was born in 1953).

Back to my story. With the experience at the ethnic festival still fresh in my memory, the next weekend was our local Albion Coin Club show, of which I was the chairman. At this show, dealer Hascall Pierce had two Y-9 1936 1 Centas coins in UNC for sale at \$6 each. I purchased them as a reminder of my Lithuanian heritage. These small coins were so innocent, so tiny...Well, since I had that one denomination, it meant that I had to get the rest of them, too (\$\$\$\$), didn't it?..

In order to exhibit these Lithuanian coins, you have to know something about them in order to properly prepare the exhibit. No one knew anything. Then I remembered reading in **Bridges** that there was a Lithuanian Museum in Chicago. A 3½ hour drive away, upon arriving there, I was fascinated by the exhibits, and discovered in the gift shop a book about Lithuanian money entitled, "Nepriklausomos...." (whatever that meant). Thumbing through it, I must have bugged the Librarian, Jurgis, for a whole hour asking him to translate key portions, as I wrote down every word on hastily found scratch paper. The more I learned, the more interesting it got, and I certainly wanted to learn more!

In January, 1978, I wrote to **World Coin News** to express my excitement about Lithuanian numismatics. After my letter was published in the "Letters to the Editor," soon other letters began appearing from other Lithuanian collectors. One thought he was the **only one** who collected Lithuania! After several letters appeared, the editor of **WCN** made the remark, "...the rallying cry for a Lithuanian Numismatic Association?", and that did it. We simply **had** to form the LNA!

Soon we all began writing each other, sharing information, according to the bits and pieces we knew. At this point we decided to form the LNA. Our first issue of **The Knight** appeared June-July 1978, 4 pages (2 sheets), 14 inches long. It was an instant "rallying cry" for Baltic collectors, and we soon had 100 charter members. As information poured in, we soon expanded



The December, 1987 issue of *World Coins*, published as an insert in the weekly publication *Coin World*, featured an article by Robert D. Leonard, Jr. entitled "A Numismatic Illustration of The Bible." Featured were numerous world coins, mostly Israeli and Vatican coins, which depict biblical themes and verses. In the back section (pp. 33-41) was printed a "Numismatic Bible," showing various coins depicting many books of the Bible.

Our readers should know that Lithuania minted a special coin with a biblical verse, which has come to be known as one of the great classic Lithuanian coins of all of Lithuanian numismatic history.

The coin is the 1565 and 1566 3 grasis (grosz), minted in Vilnius. The reverse of this coin bears a Latin inscription, which quotes Psalm 2:4—"He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them." (New American Standard version).

The coin under discussion is a controversial one, and is a numismatic tribute to Lithuania's struggle for national identity amidst its three traditional enemies: Germany, Poland, and Russia.

The story of this coin is best told by the late Jonas K. Karys, directory of the Lithuanian Mint in Kaunas 1936-39, in his book, *Ancient Lithuanian Currencies*, originally printed in the Lithuanian language in 1959, but translated by our LNA and published in English in 1980-82 and sent to all LNA members in serial form.

We quote from pp. 374-277, which discusses the 3-grasis coins issued during the reign of Sigismund Augustus, and the chronology of events which led to the issuance of this unique coin: (this was printed in *Coin World* March 18, 1981 p. 155, 156 from which we are using the typesetting):

Among all Sigismund Augustus' silver coins, the three-grasiai piece had the most



Above: The bizarre Lithuanian 3-grasis coin which caused the greatest storm of protest and indignation in Poland.

types. They were struck in three series: a) 2.670 gr.; b) 3 gr. in weight — both similarly of 0.875 silver content; and c) about 7 gr. in weight, but more than a half lesser silver content: 0.345. Other than 3-grasiai, Lithuanians called these coins "patreiniai," while the heaviest three grasiai were termed "didka" (along the Prussian border) which became "ditke".

The lightest three-grasiai are known to be from 1546-47 and 1556 (this has a somewhat larger diameter). Not many were issued, since we find barely one to three issues changes yearly. The medium-weight three-grasiai were struck more plentifully. They

are known in issues of 1562-66, and in 1562 survivals we recognize nearly 15 die changes. And that year saw just the beginning of the production of these coins — later, the Vilnius Mint could have speeded up its activity even more. Of the heaviest three-grasiai (didku) up until the present, the 1562 emission is the only one clearly identified.

The first three-grasiai were issued with a transverse inscription on the reverse: *III GROSS AR TRIPL MAG DUCA LITVA* (grossus argenteus triplex Magni Ducatus Lituania, which translates, "A triple silver grasis of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania." The Knight (Vytis) is displaced to an insignificant spot below the inscription. The market value of the triple grasis about equalled three Polish groshes. There were no complaints from Poland concerning this coin.

Suddenly in 1562, the appearance of the Lithuanian three-grasis changed: in place of the ruler's bust, his names' monogram (SA) crowned, while the four-line inscription "*III GROSS. . .*" was replaced by the Lithuanian Knight, occupying the entire field. Finally, the very weight of the three-grasis jumped up outdistancing the three groszy of Poland in theoretical value.

Such a change in the coins of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania raised an entire maelstrom of dissatisfaction in the royal palace of Sigismund Augustus in Cracow. The Poles began to protest violently that the Lithuanian three-grasis broke with tradition and did not conform with ancient statutes, left by Sigismundus the Old. True, by the regulation of 1528, he had initiated and established in





Sigismund Augustus three-grasis types included portrait coins and coins with royal monogram; Lithuania's charging Vytis appears on the reverses, two with Gediminas' Pillars as well.

Poland the 3-grosh with transverse inscriptions and with currently operating methods, but the regulation was not applicable to Lithuania.

However, for the Poles, bent upon their peculiar ends, it became an excuse to clamor and quarrel. They attacked this Lithuanian coin naturally, and at the same time blamed G. Tarla, the Mint master in Vilnius, fundamentally not for this or that change in the three-grasis piece, but most surely for displaying in such a dominating position the Lithuanian patriotic symbol, the Vytis (Knight), which Tar-

la, toadying to the Lithuanians at Vilnius, had exhibited on the coin with all stateliness. "A new attempt at separatism!"

We will never know who was the initiator of this matter in Lithuania or who perpetuated this taunting of the Poles. The very fact however, draws our attention to the situation that some men of eminence in the Grand Duchy still felt the onus of subjugation, and still continued to fight for Lithuania's autonomy. Sigismund Augustus himself surely did not participate in this "conspiracy."

That is especially emphasized by the following fact: seemingly in reply to the Poles tendentious grumbling, there was issued from the Vilnius Mint in 1565 another new three-grasis, again with a transverse four line inscription, but located not in place of the Knight, but instead above the ruler's monogram, where at the start there had been an even more important item — the head of Sigismund Augustus.

Even worse, the Vytis was carried to the obverse side of the coin o, *horribile dictu!* and so was raised even higher and honored. And even this is not all. In place of the routine legend, describing the nominal value of the coin, and to which state it pertained, there was spread across the three-Grasis from edge to edge, in mockery of the aggressors (Poles), that biting sentence from the second Psalm of David: *QUI HABITAT IN COELIS IRREDEBIT EOS*: "He who lives in heaven will laugh at them. . ."

So, the leadership of the Mint and eminent Lithuanians standing in back of it in Vilnius, on at least one occasion gave the Poles what was coming to them. The Poles, full of outrage, descended upon

Sigismund Augustus, who in this case was least at fault. When these three-grasis coins appeared in Polish provinces, the storm boiled over. The bishop of Cracow F. Krasinski supported the indignation of the Polish boyars, and sent a special letter addressed to Sigismundus Augustus. Having received that letter, the ruler personally investigated the "case," and in the beginning of 1566, totally banned further striking of that coin.

It should also be noted that the memory of this coin surfaced during the 1920's, when it was incorporated as part of a medal designed by the Lithuanian sculptor, Petras Rimša, who issued several anti-Polish medals in protest of the Polish occupation of Lithuania's capital city of Vilnius.

The May, 1983 issue of *The Numismatist* carried a description of this medal, as part of the article, "The Medals of Petras Rimša," by Frank Passic.

A big thank-you to Stanley Balzekas, Jr. and the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago for all their help these past 10 years in supplying us with information, photographs, and material for *The Knight*.



## 8. A HISTORY OF THE LNA

Continued from page 5....

to 6 pages. Then with the June-July 1979 (Vol. 2 No. 1) issue, we settled on our permanent format, 8 pages, 11 inch long paper.

It is amusing to recall one particular letter we received at the time, from someone who wondered how an entire numismatic organization could be formed around only 14 coins (the Y-1-14 1925-1936-1938 dated coins of the Republic of Lithuania). Yes, there was much people needed to know, including US!

We, too, were "green" at what we were doing, but together we were able to share information with one another, pool our resources, and come out with very interesting issues of **The Knight**, covering all aspects of Lithuanian numismatics.

From almost the very beginning, we gained an important member, Val Matelis, whose translation abilities and familiarity with Lithuanian history have been an extreme asset to us. Member John Glynn from England has been a tremendous help with supplying us information and research material.

Our first major project was the translating into the English language of the book, **Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai**, (Independent Lithuanian Money) by Jonas K. Karys (1953). The translation began in serial form beginning with the October-November 1978 issue, and continued until April-May 1980.

While this was going on, I volunteered myself as the numismatic curator at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. Soon a wealth of uncataloged material was discovered, mostly from the estate of the late Lithuanian numismatist and physician, Dr. Aleksandras Rackus. Each box was a discovery in itself! The museum then financed the issuance of our custom-made Capital Plastic Lithuanian coin holders, to house the 14 coin circulation set. This was announced in our April-May 1979 issue. The 100 holders soon sold out, and since that time another 200 have been made, making 300 total. They are sold through the Museum for \$22.00 each.

With all this excitement going on, we held our first LNA meeting December 10, 1978, at the New York International Numismatic Convention, with member Vince Alones and Robert Douchis as master of ceremonies. Dealer Karl Stephens and writer Dave Alexander were our first speakers. At the weekend convention, we passed out special Lithuanian coin trends (December-January 1978-79 issue). Our second meeting was held March 25, 1979 at the Chicago International Coin Fair, with myself in charge. Speakers were Stanley Balzekas, Jr., and Jonas Z. Augustinius. Our next meeting was

held a year later at the 1980 CICF on June 1, with our fourth meeting being held on March 15, 1981 at the CICF. In April 1982 we joined the American Numismatic Association, and held our fifth meeting at the ANA Convention in Boston, with Vince Alones presenting a slide show about Lithuanian banknotes, in which over 35 persons attended. We soon thereafter held our sixth meeting at the New York International show on December 11, 1982. Vince has headed the N.Y. LNA meetings each year and is an integral part of the LNA.

Another big LNA meeting was held in Detroit on July 28, 1984 at the ANA Convention. Yours truly, along with Vince Alones, providing the program. I also was able to be a speaker at the "Numismatic Theatre" that same day.

Starting with the October-November 1980 issue, we began our second major project, the translation of Jonas K. Karys' **Ancient Lithuanian Currencies**. This monumental project, translated by Val Matelis, continued in serial form until August-September 1982.

We are an active numismatic group, and have had a remarkable effect on world numismatic literature as it concerns Lithuania. One big controversy developed in August 1981, when Krause publication's **Standard Catalog of World Coins** removed Lithuania from the natural "L" section and placed it under "USSR". Our protest of that move generated numerous protest letters to Krause publications. One even came from the noted paper money expert Albert Pick, who insisted that Lithuania remain under the "L's" in his paper money catalog. In May, 1984, Krause publications reversed its policy, and placed the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) under the "B's" in a geographic Baltic Region category.

Beginning with the April-May 1981 issue and in spuratic issues since then, Vince Alones and Henry L. Gaidis have been presenting a series of articles on Lithuanian military orders, medals, and decorations. This series has attracted alot of interest for this virign field.

Our February-March 1983 issue featured a special insert entitled, **A Catalog of Early Lithuanian Coins I. Under the Dukes.**, which was soon followed by part II, **Under the Kings**. The classic work, **The Coin Hoards of Alunoa-Skleriai, and Kruminiai, Lithuania**, by numismatist Povilas Karazija was translated into English and made available to LNA members for \$15, which covered our costs of Xeroxing it, and was announced in the August-September 1983 issue.

A sad event occurred in 1984, when we learned of the death of Lithuanian mint director Jonas K. Karys, who died on March 26, 1984. This was announced in the April-May, 1984 issue.

In January, 1986, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago moved to a new location, and with it, yours truly was able to assemble a



Lithuanian numismatic room, filled with items from Lithuania's numismatic history. Every LNA member should make an attempt to visit the Museum and see this exhibit and collection.

Our LNA members have been generous over the years in helping us. We purchased a camera with a macro-lens that takes photographs of photographs. This has helped yours truly immensely in being able to provide photographs of Lithuanian coins!

In 1987, the LNA graciously purchased yours truly a new typewriter, replacing the old one I had been using for nearly 10 years and which had wore out. This has improved the look of **The Knight** and has enabled our publication to look more professional.

Over the past ten years, we have come across, stumbled upon, or have been given information about "new discoveries" in the field of Lithuanian numismatics. There are too many to mention here, but they have all been faithfully announced in **The Knight**.

The LNA could not be where it is today without the support of its members. We depend upon our readers for supplying us with information, articles, and research material. As we look forward to the future, I would like to see more articles submitted by LNA members, especially in the field of medieval Lithuanian numismatics, and Lithuanian medieval medals. This has been one of our weak areas which needs to be strengthened.

The LNA is a numismatic specialty (not "splinter") group, and in our own little "niche" we have had a remarkable dent in the numismatic world. Interest (and prices...) in Lithuanian numismatic material has risen sharply as a result of our LNA. Lithuanian coins and currency are very hard to find now at coin shows. We know we have had something to do with that. There have been other specialty numismatic groups which have been organized, lasted a few years, and then folded. Not the LNA. We are still here 10 years later, and will continued to publish **The Knight**, as long as we have the support and participation of our members.

Ten years ago, we published a survey of our members, asking them to indicate their collecting interests and ideas about what they would like the LNA to be. We are enclosing a new survey with this issue, in which we'd like you to fill out and send in to our director, Robert Douchis, in order that we can determine the direction and future of the LNA/**The Knight**. All replies are confidential, and you don't even have to put your name on it, if you don't want to. But we are doing this in order to keep in contact with our faithful members. We have received very few letters over the past couple

of years, and wonder if we are meeting your needs or if you are getting bored; and if so, what can we do which will help. So please take time to fill out our survey, and please make some comments on the back.

In looking back over the past ten years, I am reminded of our original and still current purposes. We repeat them here:

1. To bring together collectors of Lithuanian money, whether coins or currency, ancient or modern, in a common organization;
2. To provide an avenue (**The Knight**) to share numismatic knowledge with one another;
3. To inform members and educate them in detailed information heretofore unavailable in the English language, especially in the field of Lithuanian numismatics;
4. To advance the knowledge of the history and peoples of the Baltic States, particularly in the field of numismatics.

And so, with those goals in mind, we begin our second decade of existence. We thank all of you have supported the LNA over the years, and we know you have, for we still have many of our original charter members with us. Special thanks to dealer Karl Stephens, who has supported us from the very beginning, and whose advertisements have been a regular part of **The Knight**.

A word about the mechanical arrangements. I write **The Knight**, while Robert Douchis acts as director and Secretary. He gets the paper printed from the copy-ready issue I send him, sends it out, and handles correspondences. This is all done volunteer and we both have put in many, many hours on LNA work. Bob has leaflets for signing up new members for the LNA. Write us for some and lets sign up some new members. This is OUR organization, and only together can we keep it going and flourishing.



Frank Passic  
Editor ,  
**The Knight**



# LETTERS

I don't know if you expected me to write a letter to your 10th anniversary as Editor; in addition to translating, you have carried my letters from time to time, to excess.

But I can't help it! I have just thumbed over my volume of **The Knight**. I have recalled pride I felt to see the magazine inspire me to fill out the few coins I had flung into a drawer grow into a beautiful collection encased in colored plastic showing all regular issues. I have learned of the uniface coins and different styles of edgings; and the paper money, never before seen, blossom into a near-complete (not nearly enough) collection, expanded both to earlier German and Russian prototypes and in later specimens of camp monies.

It was more. It opened the doors of the medieval coinage; relics of both our honored and esteemed forebearers, and of those not so revered but nevertheless holding a place in the massing of our nation's history, to its zenith and to its eventual downfall.

In both these periods we have reached an end. My calls for closer examination of the medieval coins, by calling for specific years with a moderator to examine and compare neighboring dates, fell flat. However, we were faced with a dead end, no different specimens were coming from over there; excepting for a few unusual items turning up in auctions in London. Too many dates were wanting. I sent a "want list" to two active dealers, giving 95 coins to be purchased for me. Not one has shown after two years!

I know there are many collectors in Lithuania with some of the rarities. Maybe with the "glasnost" of Gorbachov, some easing may come. ..

You have done a marvelous job, as has the rest of your committee. Keep it up! ---Val Matelis, FLORIDA.

LITHUANIAN LEGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 18, 1988

Mr. Frank Passic  
Editor  
The Knight magazine  
900 S. Eaton st.  
Albion, Mich. 49224

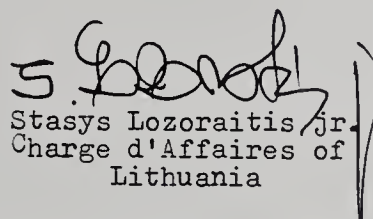
Dear Mr. Passic,

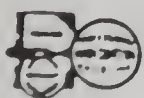
I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, to Mr. Douchis and to all those who for the past ten years have worked with you making it possible to publish "The Knight".

The magazine has been of course in the first place a rallying point for all the young and old who are interested in Lithuanian numismatics. But it has also very well served in drawing attention to the Lithuanian history and culture.

We can only be very grateful to you and the Lithuanian Numismatic Association for your efforts to publish "The Knight" and we hope that you will be able to continue for many more years.

Yours very sincerely,

  
Stasys Lozoraitis Jr.  
Charge d'Affaires of  
Lithuania



Dealer in  
Quality Rare Coins

LITHUANIAN

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Commercial advertising rates: Business card insert, \$5, or 6 for \$25 (save \$5). 1 page \$35. 1/2 page \$20. 1/4 page \$15.

We have leaflets for signing up new members. Write Bob and we'll send you some.